

Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Mrs. Shawn Soljour and I am testifying in support of SB 364. On August 15, 2009 at 12:21 a.m., I was stopped and issued a traffic infraction ticket for driving through a Red light at the intersection of South Avenue and Gerdes Road, in New Canaan. I maintain that I did not warrant the stop itself, the officer's treatment of me, or the ticket.

Officer Kim claimed that I had gone through a red light. I am certain that the light was flashing yellow as I drove toward the intersection and as I passed through the intersection.

When the officer stopped me, I could see that it had remained flashing yellow. The light never turned red. Our three daughters were in the car: ages 17 and twins aged 5.

The officer, however, maintained that the light had been red. I asked him to check the actual color of the light. He was insulted that I stated to him to look back and became irate and annoyed. He stated that had I kept my mouth shut, he would have let me go with just a warning."

At that point I firmly requested that he call his superior. I stated your tone and behavior is unwarranted and we are very uncomfortable. The on staff supervisor did come and took note of our concern and then Office Kim handed me a ticket for \$124.00. I drove immediately to the New Canaan Police department and proceeded to fill out the complaint form.

As I was filling out the complaint form the Lieutenant came in and questioned me to why I was here. I stated the light is not red and it is still flashing yellow. I was given a ticket for \$124.00 and I will not pay for something I did not do. The Lieutenant stated Ms. If Officer Kim said it is red than it is red. I said to him how you can say that and you were not there. He said we are not taking your complaint-go to court.

According to the state of CT DOT Certified Engineer Map and Maintenance Records, this specific Light was "operating on schedule"

This led to me appearing at the Norwalk Superior Court, I was found *not guilty* by Magistrate Charlton because the officer wrote the wrong statute. The State Prosecutor Justina Moore requested a Trial de novo. I appeared three more times before Judge Hudok, a Criminal Judge. I have no criminal record, no motor vehicle infractions and because I did not pay the fine on the final trial day the Judge issued a warrant for my arrest.

I was on my way to work and confronted with a warrant for my arrest. My husband had to leave work to post bond, and my arrest was publicized in the newspaper. And affected how my employers, New Canaan residents viewed me and how people viewed my children-who attend the town's elementary and high school- as a result of their parents reading the article. At the time of the arrest, I was finger printed, frisked by a female officer and thoroughly humiliated!

I had to hire an attorney to file my Traffic Stop Bias Complaint CGS 54-1m. In accordance with statute The New Canaan Police Department failed to comply with the provisions of this section.

This blatant disregard from the NCPD, the Police Commissioner, D.O.T., State Representatives who told me this is frivolous matter and move on lady. I will not! Innumerable of my ancestor were murder in this State and in the country because they had dark skin. Not because of any crime they committed. I will hold the NCPD accountable for the actions. The Connecticut Constitution is on my side! The Commission of Human Rights accepted my complaint so I hired another attorney.

The cost for this bias treatment has incurred my family over \$3,500.00, lost time from my employment, emotional stress, public ridicule and ostracization from the already racially polarized New Canaan community.

Thank you for your attention.